

for each user-initiated measure aiming at processing of a given data element value (DV) in the first database (O-DB), initially producing a calling to the data element protection catalogue for collecting the protection attribute/attributes associated with the corresponding data element type, and

controlling the user's processing of the given data element value in conformity with the collected protection attribute/attributes.

8. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for processing data that is to be protected, comprising:

a first database (O-DB) for storing said data as encrypted data element values (DV) in records (P), said first database (O-DB) having a table structure with rows and columns, each row representing a record (P) and each combination of a row and a column representing a data element value (DV), in said first database (O-DB) each data element value (DV) is [being] linked to a corresponding data element type (DT);

a second database (IAM-DB) for storing a data element protection catalogue (DPC), which contains each individual data element type (DT) and one or more protection attributes stating processing rules for data element values (DV), which in the first

database (O-DB) are linked to the individual data element type (DT);

102 means which are adapted, in each user-initiated measure aiming at processing a given data element value (DV) in the first database (O-DB), to initially produce a calling to the data element protection catalogue for collecting the protection attribute/attributes associated with the corresponding data element types, and

means which are adapted to control the user's processing of the given data element value in conformity with the collected protection attribute/attributes.

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9. (Amended) A method for processing of confidential data comprising the steps of:

103 providing a first database (P-DB), a second database (O-DB), and a third database (IAM-DB), the second database (O-DB) having a table structure with rows and columns, each row representing a record (P) and each combination of a row and a column representing a data element value (DV), in the second database (O-DB) each data element value (DV) is linked to a corresponding data element type (DT) of a plurality of different data element types;

entering descriptive information (DI) corresponding to a data element value (DV), with certain portions of the descriptive

information being classified as certain data element types (DT) of the [a] plurality of different data element types;

assigning an initial identity (OID) to the descriptive information;

storing a first record in the first database including in the initial identity;

encrypting the initial identity to form a storage identity (SID);

accessing a catalogue (DCP) of encryption protection degrees in the third database, the catalogue including encryption levels for each of the different data types;

encrypting the certain portions of the descriptive information in accordance with their data types; and

storing a second record in the second database including the storage identity and the encrypted descriptive information (DV).

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-17 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are independent. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended.